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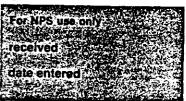
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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

ALEXANDRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT, ALEXANDRIA, VA

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DESCRIPTION: Inventory (appendix)

In addition to Victorian residences, the Alexandria district contains an ample stock of small scale early 20th-century town houses. These were designed in a variety of modes including American Four Square, Bungalow, Neo-Colonial and Second Empire during an era of agressive eclecticism. The residential units appear as infill development throughout the district. Typical areas include the 500 block of N. Washington Street and the 700 block of Oronoco Street.

The commercial area of the district centers around the corner of S. Washington Street and King Street. Consequently both King and Washington are bordered with commercial buildings and storefronts of varying ages, most of which date from the first third of the 20th century. Of particular note are the Art Deco Virginia Public Service building at 117 S. Washington Street, the Neo-Colonial Post Office and Court House at 200 S. Washington Street and the Burke and Herbert Bank at 625 King Street.

The district also encompasses several factory buildings along Alexandria's formerly active waterfront. The most notable of these structures is the former Ford Plant, designed by Albert Kahn. The major part of this structure is a yellow glazed brick, saw-tooth roofed shed designed in an Art Deco style. Appended to this structure are three concrete additions designed in a rigid, yet sympathetic style.

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7. DESCRIPTION: Inventory (appendix)

FRANKLIN STREET & UNION STREET

(Old Ford Plant): concrete; 2 stories; flat roof; 8 bays on main building, 20 bays on annex. Modern. 1920s. Architect: Albert Kahn. The Old Ford Plant is a unique structure in Virginia for it is the only structure in the state designed by the famous factory architect Albert Kahn. The main 8-bay, concrete structure has a 3-story tower at its center. It is adjoined by a 20-plus-bay, concrete structure. All windows are of industrial sash.

KING STREET

625 (Burke and Herbert Bank): brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; flat roof; 3 bays. Bank. Vernacular Classical. 1906. This small bank, with bracketed cornice and curved pediment with inscribed date, is a fine example of an early twentieth-century commercial structure.

627: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; flat roof; 2 bays. Commercial (store). Classical Eclectic. 1910. This is an excellent example of an early twentieth-century brick commercial building designed in rather eclectic classical vocabulary.

ORONOCO STREET

711-709: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof; 3 bays each; 1-story, 1-side-bay, arch entrance. Row house. 20th-century Vernacular. 1915-20. This structure contributes to the small scale streetscape of this part of the district.

NORTH WASHINGTON STREET

520: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 hipped dormer; 2 bays; 1-story, 1-bay porch. Detached house. American Four Square. 1920. This residence maintains the low scale of its nineteenth- and twentieth-century neighbors.

524: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; mansard roof (slate); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch. Detached town house. Second Empire. 1910. This building clearly contributes to the fabric of the neighborhood in scale, style, and materials.

528: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; mansard roof (slate); 1 shed dormer; 3 bays. Detached town house. Twentieth-century Vernacular. 1910. This modified American Four Square building maintains the low density of this area of the district.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (appendix)

SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

117: stone (limestone); 3 stories; flat roof; 5 bays. Commercial (office). Art Deco. Ca. 1930s. Now a Marine recruiting office, this 3-story, limestone-faced structure is a fine example of the reserved form of Art Deco-style that was frequently used in commercial buildings.

7

200 (U.S. Post Office and Courthouse): brick (5-course American bond); 3 stories; gable roof (composition); 2 gable dormers; 5 bays. Post Office. Colonial Revival. 1930. This 3-story, brick-and-limestone building with its large cupola is an excellent example of the late Colonial Revival architecture so popular for public buildings in the south.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

In addition to the previously discussed 19th-century structures, significant 20-century buildings still stand in the historic district. These residential, commercial, and industrial buildings contribute to the area's historic fabric and survive as a three-dimensional palimpsest of Alexandria's development.

In part due to its excellent rail connections to both north and south, Alexandria became an important industrial and commercial center in Northern Virginia. In fact, the Potomac yards were the largest classification railway yards in the country at the turn of the century. As a result of this transportation system, Alexandria developed a large industrial center along its waterfront adjacent to the railway. The list of industrial enterprises in Alexandria during the early 20th century is rather lengthy, including large lumber yards, leather and shoe factories, coal wharves, ice factories, a brewery, glass works, a tile manufactury, and a gas works. This combination of industrial vitality and excellent transportation facilities led Henry Ford to build a plant along the Alexandria waterfront. Designed by Albert Kahn and completed in 1932, the structure incorporates a saw-tooth roof, and Art Deco facade with a remarkable degree of structural clarity, making it stand today as the most important example of early modern architecture in Alexandria.

As the industrial area developed, so too did the commercial base rise to support the needs of the residents who were drawn to Alexandria by the availability of jobs and adequate housing. During the first two decades of this century, a central business district developed along King and Washington streets. The Post Office and Courthouse designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect is an excellent example of a late Colonial Revival structure; the Marine recruiting center, with its stripped Classical details and Art Deco-style ironwork, is the finest example of that style in the district.

The aforementioned combination of industrial development along with Alexandria's proximity to Washington D. C. caused an explosion of residential development in the first third of the 20th century. With its reasonable rents, relatively pure drinking water, fine educational system, and availability of loans through various cash-rich building associations, small scale residential developments, designed in several styles, sprang up throughout the city. While the units are architecturally significant and cohesive by themselves, these residences are also stylistically sympathetic to the fabric of the 19th-century city. The early 20th-century Empire and Four Square structures at 520-528 North Washington Street, for example, share a commonality of scale and material with the cotton mill across the street. 709-711 Oronoco Street performs the same function in relation to the neighboring 19th-century buildings.

Ordinance No. 1338

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 42-85, Article XIV, Chapter 42 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended; which Chapter 42 relates to ZONING, which Article XIV relates to OLD AND MISTORIC ALEXAMBRIA DISTRICT, and which Section 42-85 relates to CREATION; BOUNDARIES GO DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, pursuant to due and timely notice of the time and place of hearing published in a daily paper of general circulation published in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, a public hearing was held in relation to the matters hereinafter set forth, at which public hearing parties in interest and citizens had an opportunity to be heard.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 42-85; Article XIV, Chapter 42 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 42-85. Creation; boundaries.

There is hereby created in the City of Alexandria, Virginia, a district to be known as the "Old and Historic Alexandria District", beginning at a point, said point being the intersection of the centerline of Queen Street with the west bank of the Potomac River; thence westward along the centerline of Queen Street to the centerline of Lee Street; thence northward along the centerline of Lee Street to the center line of Princess Street; thence westward with the centerline of Princess Street to a point 123.42 feet west of the west line of Pitt Street; thence northward and parallel to the west line of Pitt Street to a point 176.58 feet north of the north line of Oronoco Street; thence westward from such point and paralleling the north line of Oronoco Street to a point 173.42 feet east of the centerline of North Washington Street; thence north paralleling North Washington Street to the centerline of First Street; thence east with the centerline of First Street to a point 500 feet east of the centerline of North Washington Street; thence north along a line 500 feet east of the centerline of George Washington Memorial Highway to the north city limits; thence west with the north city line to a point 500 feet west of the centerline of George Washington Memorial Highway; thence south along a line 500 feet west of the centerline of George Washington Memorial Highway to the centerline of First Street; thence east with the centerline of First Street to a point 173.42 feet west of the centerline of North Washington Street; thence south paralleling North Washington Street to a point 176.50 feet north of the north line of Oronoco Street; thence west to a point 123.42 feet west of the west line of Columbus Street; thence southward and parallel to the west side of Columbus Street to a point 176.55 feet north of the north line of Queen Street; thence westward paralleling Queen Street to a point 123.43 feet west of the west line of Alfred Street; thence southward and parallel to the west line of Alfred Street to a point 170.53 feet south of the south line of Queen Street; thence westwerd paralleling the south line of Queen Street to a point on the centerline of Patrick Street; thence southword along the centerline of Patrick Street to a point 142.58 feet north of the north line of Prince Street; thence westward and parallel to the north line of Prince Street to the conterline of South Henry Street; thence south along said centerline 42.58 feet to a point; thence westward parallel to the north line of Prince Street being also the south line of two 19 foot wide alleys to a point 63.42 feet west of the west line of South Fayette Street; thence northerly parallel to the west line of Favette Street 22 feet to a lot corner; thence westward 49 feet parallel to the north line of Prince Street; thence south 17.42 feet parallel to the west line of Fayette Street to the south line of a 12 foot wide alley; thence with said line westwardly parallel to Prince Street to the centerline of Payne Street; thence southward along the centerline of Payne Street to a point 100 feet south of the south line of Prince Street; thence eastwords paralleling Prince Street and 100 feet south of the south line of Prince Street to a point 123.42 feet west of the west line of Alfred Street; thence southward and parallel to the west line of Alfred Street, to the conterline of Wilkes Street; thence eastward along the centrine of Wilkes Street to the centerline of Columbus Street; thence southward with the centerline of Columbus Street to the centerline of Franklin Street; thence westward along the centerline of Franklin Street to a point 123,42 feet west of the west line of Alfred Street; thence southward and parallel with the west line of Alfred Street to the centerline of the Capital Beltway; thence castward along the centerline of the Capital Beltway to a point on the extension of the centerline of Boyal Street; thence southward along the extended centerline of Royal Street to the south city line in Hunting Creek; thence east with the south city line to the shore line of the Potomac River; thence north with the shore line of the Potomac River to the point of heginning.

Section 2. That in the opinion of the City Council an emergency exists and this is declared an EMERGENCY ORDINANCE as a companion ordinance to the height restriction amendment ordinance under consideration.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

FRANK E. MANN Mayor

Final Passage: June 22, 1965

